

Broadcast flags are unnessecary and will hamper consumer adoption of HDTV technology. People are used to being able to record TV shows for archival and time-shifting purposes (both completly legal under the fair-use doctrine and the Supreme Court's rulling in Sony Corp v. Universal City Studios [the Betamax case]) and preventing or limiting these uses will needlessly confuse and anger consumers with the likley result of furhter delaying the wide spread adoption of HDTV.

In addition, the entertainment compaines (the major backers of this proposal) have consistantly shown themselves afraid of new technologies and almost always seek to stifle inovation with unnessecarly restrictive, government mandated copyright protections (see the above referenced case as well as Recordng Industry Association of America v. Diamond Multimedia[over the introduction of the first portable MP3 players], Recording Industry Association of America v. Sony Corp [over the introduction of Digital Audio Tapes and recorders], Motion Picture Association of America v. 2600 Magazine [over the publication of the source code for a program which allows DVDs to be decrypted for the purpose of playback on open source software] and many others